3. After section 7 A (5) of the Cochin Village Panchayat Act, V of 1089, as amended up-to-date, the following section shall be inserted:—

Insertion of a new section in Act V of 1089, as amended up-to-date.

"7 A (6). The Government may, by notification in the Government Gazette, alter whenever they consider necessary the months noted in columns 3 and 4 of the Schedule annexed for the purposes of sections 7 A (1) and (2)".

Sections 2 and 3 were put and carried.

Deputy President.—The question is that section 1 stand part of the Bill.

1. This Act may be called the Cochin Village Panchayat (Amendment) Act. of 1113, and it shall come into force at once.

Short title and commencement.

Deputy President.—The question is that the Title and Preamble stand part of the Bill.

THE COCHIN VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Cochin Village Panchaya Act, V of 1089, as amended up-to-date; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

Title and preamble were put and carried.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I move that the Bill may be taken up and passed tomorrow.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Debt Conciliation Act Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I rise to introduce the Cochin Debt Conciliation Act Amendment Bill. This is of course not a controversial measure. Hon'ble Members are aware that under the Debt Conciliation Act all the debts except Government dues are capable of being

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conciliated. This amendment seeks to bring in Municipal dues also under the purview of the Debt Conciliation Act. The operative clause of the amendment is "Introduce in section 2 clause (f) between the words 'to the Government' and 'or any money' the words 'or any Municipal taxes or other Municipal dues'." I move that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is "the Cochin Debt Conciliation Act (Amendment) Bill."

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I move that the Bill may be taken for consideration forthwith after suspending Standing Order No. 32.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I second it.

Deputy President.—The standing order is suspended.

Motion was put and carried

Deputy President.—The question is that section 2 stand part of the Bill.

Amendment to the definition of 'debt'.

2. Introduce in section 2, clause (f), between the words 'to the Government' and 'or any money' the words 'or any Municipal taxes or other Municipal dues',

Section 2 was put and carried.

Deputy President.—The question is that section 1 stand part of the Bill.

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Cochin Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act of 1113.

(2) It extends to the whole of Cochin and shall come into force at once.

Section was put and carried.

Deputy President.—The question is that the Title and Preamble stand part of the Bill.

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THE COCHIN DEBT CONCILIATION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Cochin Debt Conciliation Act, XXVI of 1112, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

Title and preamble were put and carried.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I move that the Bill may be taken up and passed tomorrow.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Penal Code Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—Sir, I rise to introduce the Cochin Penal Code Amendment Bill. This Bill deals with the section relating to rape. I do not think that I can do better than read the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill. "Under section 355 of the Cochin Penal Code as amended by Act VIII of 1040 a man is guilty of the offence of 'rape' if he has sexual intercourse with a woman 'with or without her consent when she is under twelve years of age' and under the exception to this section, sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 12 years of age, is not rape. Books on medical jurisprudence establish the fact that the age of puberty in India is ordinarily attained by a girl upon her reaching the age of 14 and that they are unfit for sexual cohabitation till they are much older and more fully developed in physique and strength. The desire to reduce infant mortality and to afford protection to minor girls and their progeny has contributed not a little to the great attention and study that have been bestowed on the subject in the quarter of a century that has elapsed and in British India the age has been raised as suggested in this Bill as early as 1935. The age of consent Committee oppointed in 1928 by the Government of India after a very elaborate enquiry and after weighing all shades of opinion reported in favour of fixing even a higher age. This Bill proposes to fix only the age of 13 for offences within marital relationship and 14 for offences without it. This while meeting the requirements of the case would at the same time not be far in advance of public opinion. Hence full support is expected for this piece of humanitarian legislation." I am sure that the Doctor members of this House will be jubilant over this provision and I hope all the other members also will support this. We have only raised the age of consent as mentioned in this Bill. This is indeed a very salutary measure. I move that the Bill be read in Council.

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